

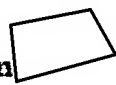


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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

9 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division 

SUBJECT : Satellite Registration

REFERENCE : a. Memo for the Record from ASST CH/LPD, dated 2 January 1962; Subject: "Meeting in the Office of Mr. U. Alexis Johnson, Department of State, 29 January" (COR-1502)

b. Memo for DD/P from SA/TA/LPD, dated 5 January 1962; "United Nations Registry of Satellites" (OXC-2888)

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1. As further to the above references, I had a brief opportunity during the Suppliers' Conference in West Palm Beach to have an informal discussion with Dr. Charyk on his second thoughts following the 29 December meeting in the office of the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Dr. Charyk seemed even more resolute in his feeling that as little as possible should be done to comply with the U. N. resolution which was the subject of all the excitement, and he added that he was somewhat distressed with State because he had received the letter mentioned in paragraph 5 of Reference a. from the Department, asking for a DOD position on compliance with the resolution, with the further statement that DOD's answer should be in hand no later than 8 January. Dr. Charyk said that this date was wholly unacceptable and that he was at a loss to understand why State was pressing so hard for an immediate answer to the Secretariat of the United Nations.

2. Dr. Charyk added that since this question was potentially so important to the entire defense establishment, and actions taken in haste might well establish a precedent within which satellite reconnaissance could not continue, he felt that the next move was to convene the principals for a face-to-face discussion in order to make sure that everyone was aware of the implications of compliance. The principals he identified as Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. Alexis Johnson, Mr. McCone, General Taylor, et al, or as he said, "Virtually the membership

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of the Special Group". Dr. Charyk said that he would attempt to seize the initiative on such a meeting and would propose it to Mr. Gilpatric as soon as possible. In any event it appeared that he would not comply with State's request for an informal answer by 8 January.

3. Dr. Charyk then asked if the undersigned was aware of "Project 35" which he said had been held rather closely within the DOD and which by his description was a satellite designed to photograph extensively cloud cover and which is scheduled to be operational "some time in April". After indicating unawareness of this activity, he went on to describe it as possessing a greater technical capability than TYROS and indicated its applicability in a path-finding role for such reconnaissance satellites as CORONA and SAMOS. He said that if a mission purpose were ascribed to this vehicle, it would alienate not only the U. S. Weather Bureau who are apparently not in the act, but NASA as well, since they would regard this as a DOD attempt to move in on their areas of responsibility. For all intents and purposes, the matter was left there, although Dr. Charyk indicated that he hoped to be able to amplify his brief discussion with the DD/P on this matter conducted apparently just prior to the opening of the Suppliers' Conference.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Assistant Chief
DPD-DD/P

cc: DDCI
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